

## SOURCES

Indians, Republican Party, civil rights, urbanization, African Americans, and the presidency. Users may trace the development of themes from one era to another in separately written essays. The volume arrangement by defined periods may be inconvenient for some users seeking a general overview of a topic for all years, but the authors and editors offer a consistent, scholarly style in essays ranging from one to seven pages. More than five hundred authors, mainly academic historians and political scientists, contributed signed essays to the encyclopedia.

As an aid to users unsure of which volume to consult, each volume has a complete, detailed subject index to the entire set, and also a thematically arranged reader's guide that lists related essays in each volume. For example, among the headings in the guide are "Corruption and Scandal," "Domestic Policy and Policy Issues," "Economy, Business, Trade, and Labor," "Elections and Electoral Politics," "Government Systems, the Constitution, and Constitutional Development," and the largest category "Intergovernmental Relations and Sectionalism." Users will find that the intergovernmental category shows that volume 2 (1784–1840) has essays on sectionalism, state-federal relations, and states' rights; and the domestic policy section shows essays in volume 7 (1946–present) on health care, HIV/AIDS, drug policy, and tobacco settlement among other issues of the period. Further guidance to readers is provided by introductory articles from each volume editor analyzing the major political developments and themes of the period. Also, there are lists of books, articles, and websites for additional research following each essay and cross-references to related essays that appear in the same volume and in others.

This encyclopedia, covering 2800 pages not including the recurring 123 page index, is much larger and differently organized compared with Edwards's and Rothman's *The Princeton Encyclopedia of American Political History* (Princeton University Press, 2010) in two volumes (unavailable to this reviewer) and the earlier *The Encyclopedia of American Political History* (CQ Press, 2001) edited by Finkelman and Wallenstein in one volume. Nash's *The Encyclopedia of American History* (Facts on File, 2003) in eleven volumes is organized by periods but it is much broader in scope, less current, and directed to a broader audience. Although many of the topics in the new CQ Press work can be researched in other reference books, the in-depth essays and the conceptual, political perspective make this work highly recommended either in print or online editions. It will appeal to undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, and the general public seeking an excellent review of American political history.—David Lincove, *Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus, Ohio*

---

**The Fertilizer Encyclopedia.** By Vasant Gowariker, V.N. Krishnamurthy, Sudha Gowariker, Manik Dhanorkar, and Kalyani Paranjape. Hoboken, N.J.: Wiley, 2010. 861p. \$350 (ISBN 978-0-470-41034-9). E-book available (ISBN 978-0-470-43176-4), \$350.

In his introduction, Dr. Norman Borlaug, often called the Father of the Green Revolution, talks about the importance

of fertilizers in producing enough food to feed the world, emphasizing the hundreds of millions going hungry in the developing world. His focus of course is on chemical fertilizers, but the *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* itself also gives fair coverage to the pros and cons of more organic materials and practices. Its purpose is to provide information on the maintenance of soil health and fertility as part of an "ever-green revolution" (pages unnumbered). It covers topics of importance to the entire world, from zinc deficiencies in wetland rice to water hyacinth as a potential fertilizer to Baule units for determining fertilizer requirements.

The organization is alphabetical, with frequent helpful cross-references between variant terms used around the world to describe the same issue. In the print edition, the typeface is very readable and the paper is of decent quality, but apparently not acid free. Appendixes cover organizations and acronyms, abbreviations, information on chemicals and compounds, and units of measurement. The bibliography is international in coverage but has few references newer than 2000 and fails to include URLs for up-to-date versions of entries such as the U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Commodity Summaries or the UN Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. Illustrations are black and white; the photographs are not uniformly helpful, but the graphs, tables, and formulae are quite clear and useful. Importantly, the text is well written, authoritative, and comprehensible to a wide range of readers from academics to professionals to interested nonspecialists. As with any reference work, the availability of an electronic edition is a plus.

It is true, as World Food Prize Laureate M.S. Swaminathan says in his foreword, that there is "nothing even remotely similar" to this work (page unnumbered). Naturally the topic is included in more general agricultural and agricultural chemical reference works, but probably the most comparable titles are Jack Plimmer's three-volume *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals* (Wiley-Interscience, 2003) and *Ullmann's Agrochemicals* (Wiley-VCH, 2007). I use "comparable" loosely—Plimmer's work is more a compendium of essays on broad topics related to all types of agricultural chemicals, mainly pesti/herbi/fungicides with lesser attention paid to fertilizers, and the *Ullmann's* describes itself as a ready reference survey of the fundamentals, industrial processes, effectiveness, toxicology, and applications of agrochemicals; again, it mainly deals with chemicals for control of pests and diseases instead of fertilizing agents, as does W.T. Thomson's four-volume set *Agricultural Chemicals* (Simmons, 1997-2000). J. Benton Jones Jr.'s *Agronomic Handbook: Management of Crops, Soils and their Fertility* (CRC, 2003) does talk about fertility in the context of soil and plant analysis and treatment but is broader in coverage and therefore pays less attention to fertilizers in particular and is not encyclopedic in form. In contrast, the *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* focuses on short explanations of particular terms relevant to crop nutrition; an example would be its two columns related to copper as a nutrient, as compared to the *Encyclopedia of Agrochemicals's* scattered references to copper throughout. The former devotes four pages to rice,

while the later again touches just briefly on the topic in the course of other discussions. If you were dealing with nearly any aspect of plant nutrition and came across unfamiliar or unclear terms, you would definitely want to turn to the *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* for information on what they meant and how they related to crop nutrition.

The *Fertilizer Encyclopedia* fills a large gap in the literature of agriculture. It is essential for academic or special libraries dealing with agricultural matters and highly recommended for large public libraries.—Cindy Stewart Kaag, PhD, MLS, Head of Research Services and Head of Science Libraries, Washington State University, Pullman, Washington

---

***A Global Chronology of Conflict: From the Ancient World to the Modern Middle East.*** Ed. by Spencer C. Tucker. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 2781p. acid free \$395 (ISBN 978-1851096671).

It is difficult to contain my enthusiasm for this truly extraordinary, even magisterial work of scholarship, a veritable tour de force about which one can only speak in superlatives.

This extraordinary six-volume epic work is truly a monumental achievement. Sui generis, this is one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive military history chronologies ever compiled known to this author. It is a remarkable achievement, unique and distinctive and awe-inspiring, an incredible compilation and assimilation of material from disparate sources.

Comparable earlier works such as Brownstone and Franck's *Timelines of War: A Chronology of Warfare from 100,000 B.C. to the Present* (Little, Brown, 1994) pale in comparison. Perusing it (it is interesting to just leaf through), one is reminded of an analogous work, Clodfelter's *Warfare and Armed Conflicts: A Statistical Reference to Casualty and Other Figures, 1500–2000* (McFarland, 2001), which is similarly exacting in its detail and makes an excellent companion volume.

A distinguished military historian in his own right and prolific editor of numerous other books, including, most recently, *The Encyclopedia of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Political, Social, and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008) and the *Encyclopedia of the Cold War: A Political, Social and Military History* (ABC-CLIO, 2008), Tucker is eminently qualified to have put together this magnum opus comprised of contributions from academicians and independent scholars.

Meticulously researched, each of the volumes—which cover the periods 3000 BCE–1499CE, 1500–1774, 1775–1860, 1861–1918, 1919–1949, and 1950–2008—are contextualized by introductory historical overviews, “supplemented with material intended to heighten the reader’s awareness of important individuals and key technologies that have [had] significant impact on the course of military history” found in sections devoted to “Leaders” and “Weapons” at the end of each volume (xix). Although the focus is on the military, important political events with military consequences are also included. Occasional images and drawings punctuate the text, which is replete with maps. There is a thirty-two-page

index to the entire set in each of the volumes and a glossary. The one notable omission is a bibliography.

A typical entry contains the date and a brief synopsis of what major events occurred thereon. For example, the one for June 5, 1967, the beginning of the Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors, succinctly synthesizes the military events of the day and provides insightful commentary on their consequences. The four ensuing pages chronicle the unfolding developments until the war’s end, providing a detailed description of what actually occurred, for example, troop movements and battlefield positions.

Students of history and international affairs will relish this book, which academic libraries might want to consider purchasing in electronic format to encourage more widespread use and to conserve shelf space. This is not an indispensable purchase, but potentially a highly useful one. It is particularly recommended for libraries with extensive military history collections.—David Ettinger, *International Affairs and Political Science Librarian, Gelman Library, George Washington University*

---

***The International Encyclopedia of Gambling.*** By William N. Thompson. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2010. 2 vols. acid free \$180 (ISBN 978-1-59884-225-8). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-59884-226-5), call for pricing.

If one concurs with the assertion made in *The International Encyclopedia of Gambling’s* opening chronology that Adam and Eve kicked things off by gambling with the future of mankind, then one can see that gambling truly is a part of human nature. Nevertheless, for much of human history gambling has lurked at the fringes of society, maintaining an illegal or semi-legal status, especially in the U.S. Recently, though, gambling has emerged as a major force in U.S. and global societies. From the rising popularity of televised poker tournaments to U.S. states legalizing slot machines to offset taxes, gambling seems to be everywhere. Yet, society continues to struggle with the ethical, sociological, and psychological implications of gambling.

*The International Encyclopedia of Gambling* provides context and background for further investigation in these issues. In this work, the author updates and broadens the scope of his previous book, *Gambling in America: An Encyclopedia of History, Issues, and Society* (ABC-CLIO, 2001). To accommodate the increased content the work expanded to two volumes. To facilitate access, the organization of the encyclopedia changed from a simple A–Z entry list to entries grouped under eight major sections: general topics, games, biographies, venues and places, an annotated bibliography, leading law cases, a glossary, and selected essays.

This encyclopedia achieves its purpose of covering most aspects of the multifaceted world of gambling. Previous reference works usually only covered one major aspect. For example, Clark’s *The Dictionary of Gambling and Gaming* (Lexik House, 1987) serves to adequately define the huge vocabulary related to gambling, but does not attempt to cover any of the sociological issues. Conversely, Torr’s *Gambling: Opposing*